## Message Text

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**ACTION NEA-10** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG, US

SUBJ: GIDEON SAMMET ON RESULTS OF REASSESSMENT

- 1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE APPEARING IN HAARETZ JULY 20 BY VISITING HAARETZ EDITOR GIDEON SAMMET.
- 2. BEGIN TEXT: EVEN BEFORE THE INTERIM SETTLEMENT BETWEEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT HAS BEEN COMPLETED, CLEAR SIGNS CAN ALREADY BE SEEN THAT NOT MUCH TIME WILL GO BY, PERHAPS NO MORE THAN SIX MONTHS, BEFORE ISRAEL WILL FACE DIFFICULT DECISIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEXT STAGE OF THE AGREEMENTS. ONLY THIS TIME-THIS IS THE IMPRESSION ONE CAN EASILY GET FROM TALKS WITH U.S. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS-THE ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO REACH AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT.
- 3. HOWEVER, TALKS WITH SENATORS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND EVEN WITH OFFICIALS OF THE ISRAEL EMBASSY IN WASHINGTO, DO NOT CREATE THAT IMPRESSION. CONGRESSMEN ON CAPITOL HILL WHO ARE FRIENDLY TO ISRAEL THINK THAT THERE IS NO REAL CHANCE FOR AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT. THEIR ASSUMPTION-WHICH IS THE SAME ASSUMPTION SUBSCRIBED TO AND CONFIRMED BY CONSIDERABLE SECTORS OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ISRAELI PUBLIC-IS THAT EGYPT AND OTHER ARAB STATES

WILL NOT AGREE TO ANY SETTLEMENT WHOSE INTERPRETATION IS REAL PEACE WITH ISREAEL.

4. THE PARALLEL IS THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT BE PERPARED TO WITHDRAW TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT WILL MAKE DISCUSSIONS OF AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE. THESE ASSUMPIONS ARE TODAY OVERSHADOWED BY THE SPIRIT OF THE INEXHAUSTIBLE HENRY KISSINGER, WHO IS CONVINCED THAT SO FAR THE CONDITIONS HAVE NOT BEEN RIPE FOR ANYTHING BUT AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, AT THE SAME TIME PROFESSIONAL OFFICIALS OF THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUE TO BE ENGAGED IN A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF THE CHANCES OF A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT IN THE COMING STAGES.

5. THE "RE-ASSESSMENT", WHICH HAS CAST ITIS TERRIFYING SHADOW OVER ISRAEL FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, IS ABOUT TO COME TO A CONCLUSION; AND WHILE THE U.S. DIPLOMATIC MACHINE HAS DURING THIS TIME MADE ALL THE EFFORTS FOR THE CONCLUSION OF AN INTERIM AGREEMENT, MORE AND MORE PEOPLE IN THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE APPARENTLY COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE ATTEMPT TO REACH AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT MUST LAREADY BE MADE AT AN EARLY STAGE OF THE PERIOD DURING WHICH THE NEW (INTERIM) AGREEMENT WILL BE IN EFFECT.

6. U.S. POLICY PLANNERS FEEL THAT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR ISRAELI CONCESSIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR LESS THAT NON-BELLIGERENCY ARE GRADUALLY DIMINISHING AND HAVE ACUTALLY REACHED THE LIMIT.

7. SOMEWHERE, AND PERHAPS NOT ENTIRELY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST, THERE EXISTS-DESPITE THE INTERESTS, DESPITE THE CYNICISM OF THE POLITICIANS, IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING-THE ASPIRATION TO BRING THE MIDDLE EAST INTO A SITUATION THAT WILL BE AT LEAST CLOSE TO PEACE. IN THE ABSENCE OF WILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO NON-BELLIGERENCY IN EXCHANGE FOR A PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL, IT DOES NOT SEEM THAT SUCH A SITUATION COULD BE REACHED UNLESS IN AN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT. THUS, YOU CAN TODAY HEAR TALK ABOUT THE CONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AT THE END OF 1975 UNCLASSIFIED

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OR THE BEGINNING OF 1976.

8. THE CONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL BE PRECEDED BY CLARIFICATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES. THE NATURE AND PROCESS OF THESE CLARIFICATIONS WILL BE DECISIVE IN DETERMINING THE CHANCES OF THE CONFERENCE. IF THIS TIME-TABLE EXPRESSES A CORRECT INTERPRETATION OF THE INTENTIONS OF THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION,

ISRAEL MUST ALREADY WELL PREPARE HERSELF FOR THESE CLARIFICATIONS. IN THIS CASE MR. RABIN CANNOT AFFORT TO ENJOY A MARGIN OF TIME. THE TRUTH IS THAT THE BENEFIT OF THE TIME BOUGHT BY THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT WILL LARGELY DEPEND ON THE SENSE OF URGENCY WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER WILL MANAGE TO EXPERIENCE AND ADOPT IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE NEXT POLITICAL STAGE.

END TEXT.

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